



CITY OF ROANOKE OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

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July 17, 2006

Honorable C. Nelson Harris, Mayor
Honorable David B. Trinkle, Vice Mayor
Honorable Alfred T. Dowe, Jr., Council Member
Honorable Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr., Council Member
Honorable Sherman P. Lea, Council Member
Honorable Gwendolyn W. Mason, Council Member
Honorable Brian J. Wishneff, Council Member

Subject: Procurement of Towing Services
for Tows Requested by Police

Dear Mayor Harris and Members of Council:

Previously the City has utilized an open towing list to provide citizens with police requested towing services. Over the last year to eighteen months, the Police Department has received numerous complaints and concerns from citizens related to the quality and price of service provided by the companies on the City's towing list. Under the current system, two vehicles involved in an accident could be charged vastly differing amounts for the same service if served by different companies. In accordance with section 46.2-1217, Code of Virginia, the only way that the City can address this pricing inequity is by contracting with one or more towing contractors for police requested towing services. If it does so, the City will be better able to ensure that the public receives the quality of service to which it is entitled, since the City will have contracted and selected the towing contractors through a competitive procurement process.

City staff presented a proposed contract to the Towing Advisory Board for comment from its members on June 21, 2006. Staff has been attempting to resolve the pricing inequities with the Towing Advisory Board since the fall of 2005. Throughout the process staff has made numerous changes to the proposed contract to address the concerns of the Board. The current contract form reflects input from the Police Department, the Towing Advisory Board, the towing industry, the insurance industry, and citizens.

City staff intends to procure by contract the services of one or more towing contractors to provide police requested towing services. It is anticipated that there will be two different types of towing contracts awarded. One contract will

address the towing of light-duty vehicles. The vast majority of police requested tows are for towing light-duty vehicles. A second type of contract would be for towing medium and heavy-duty vehicles. The equipment needs for towing medium and heavy-duty vehicles are different from the equipment needs for towing light-duty vehicles. Staff believes that by separating the towing contracts into these two categories, citizens can receive better service at a better price.


Consideration:

Section 46.2-1217, Code of Virginia, allows the governing body of any city to contract with one or more towing contractors to provide police requested towing services within the city's boundaries. This section further provides that the contract may specify the fees or charges to be paid by the owner or operator of the towed vehicle. By contracting for police requested towing services, the City can better ensure the quality and cost of the towing services provided to its citizens as a result of police requested tows.

Recommended Action:

City Council adopt the attached resolution authorizing the City Manager to procure and contract with one or more towing contractors for police requested towing services. The resolution further authorizes the City Manager to procure such tow services in such manner as she deems most appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,


Darlene L. Burcham
City Manager

DLB:ts

Enclosures

c: Mary F. Parker, City Clerk
William M. Hackworth, City Attorney
Jesse A. Hall, Director of Finance
Rolanda B. Russell, Assistant City Manager
A. L. Gaskins, Chief of Police

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